GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3015
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2016
Tea Production in Assam
Ajmal Maulana Badruddin

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that more than half of the country''s tea production comes from Assam;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the longer dry periods and change in rainfall pattern in North East have increased tea production cost; and
(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide assistance to tea farmers and to balance the international market price with Indian Tea Traders?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a)& (b): Yes, Madam. During the year 2015-16, the tea production in Assam was 652.95 M. Kgs. which accounted for fifty-three per cent of the total production of 1233.14 M. Kgs in the country. Similarly, during the current year (April-September, 2016), Assam produced 432.43 M. Kgs. of tea which accounted for fifty-four percent of the total production of 795.89M.Kgs. so far.

(c)& (d): The tea industry is facing problems due to climate change resulting in erratic distribution of rainfall with extended periods of droughts followed by heavy rainfall. Irrigation has become imperative and pest and disease incidence is on the rise. This has become a challenge in tea production in Assam. Accordingly, the tea garden owners have to incur higher costs for irrigation and pest/disease control.

In order to help the growers to mitigate the increased cost, Tea Board under the Tea Development & Promotion Scheme is providing financial assistance for creation of Irrigation facilities. Financial assistance of Rs. 6.25 Crores during the year 2015-16 for an area of 10,954.19 ha and Rs. 2.52 crores during 2016-17 (till October 2016)for an area of 3,359.00 ha has been extended to North East. Moreover, other schemes including replanting and rejuvenation pruning for replenishment of old and uneconomic tea areas are being implemented by the Tea Board.
In order to help the Indian Tea Traders maintain the supply-demand equilibrium and earn remunerative price for the stakeholders of the Tea Industry, the government has added thrust for increasing exports volume, doubling unit price realization, augmenting export of value-added teas and reinforcing "Brand India" Image in the overseas markets.

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